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Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Mrs. Sharon BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Bahamas)

Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4 (a))

Section 9. Economic and social information and policy analysis

1. At its 24th meeting, on 27 June 1997, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 9, Economic and social information and policy analysis, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed their support for the programme and acknowledged the positive impact of the work of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, especially in the areas of statistics and population, and the value of its publications, in particular to developing countries. Other delegations considered that some other areas of the programme of work of the Department overlapped the work of other organizations/offices inside and outside the United Nations system and were of the view that the ongoing restructuring should address that problem.

3. Some delegations considered that the level of resources was not adequate to cover the programme of work contained in the section. They were also concerned about the number of posts proposed for abolition or remaining vacant and the impact of this on the implementation of the programme of work. One delegation stated that in view of the ongoing restructuring of the United Nations, an increase in resources was not warranted. Some delegations expressed the hope

that the proposed restructuring of the economic departments would not be detrimental to the quality of the work to be carried out.

4. One delegation emphasized the need to expand the focus of the subprogramme on population. Another suggested that case-studies on positive and negative experiences with market reforms should be undertaken.

5. One delegation proposed a revision of the first sentence of paragraph 9.47 to read:

> "One major consequence of globalization and liberalization is that Governments can no longer manage their national economies without an understanding of developments in the world economy. Such developments should be taken into account by Governments in accordance with their national priorities."

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 9, Economic and social information and policy analysis, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, subject to further consideration as stated in paragraph 35 of the introduction.